

Message Text

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PAGE 01 USUN N 04271 021859Z

ACTION EB-08

INFO OCT-01 IO-13 ISO-00 AF-10 ARA-10 EA-10 EUR-12
NEA-10 ABF-01 L-03 FRB-03 OMB-01 ITC-01 SP-02
AGRE-00 AID-05 CIAE-00 COME-00 INR-07 LAB-04
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DODE-00 NSCE-00 SSO-00 USIE-00 INRE-00 /125 W
-----099769 021908Z /72

O 021823Z NOV 77

FM USMISSION USUN NEW YORK

TO SECSTATE WASHDC IMMEDIATE 6895

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E.O. 11652: N/A

TAGS: UNGA, UNCTAD, EINV, OECD, UN

SUBJ: 32ND GA: SECOND COMMITTEE: UNCTAD SYG COREA

BEGINS DEBATE ON ITEM 58 ON UPBEAT TONE

REF: STATE 257727

SUMMARY: UNCTAD SYG COREA BEGAN DEBATE ON ITEM 58 IN
THE SECOND COMMITTEE WITH A COMPREHENSIVE, UPBEAT AND
CONCILIATORY ADDRESS. MISSION RECOMMENDS WE GIVE A POSITIVE
RESPONSE TO HIS REMARKS, SHOULD WE BE OBLIGED TO SPEAK
ON QUESTIONS OF TIMING OF NEGOTIATING CONFERENCE FOR A
CODE OF CONDUCT FOR THE TRANSFER OF TECHNOLOGY.
END SUMMARY.

1. UNCTAD SECRETARY-GENERAL GAMANI COREA BEGAN SECOND
COMMITTEE DELIBERATIONS ON ITEM 58 (UNCTAD) WITH A MARKEDLY
UPBEAT AND CONCILIATORY ADDRESS. HIS REMARKS, LIKE THOSE
AT ECOSOC, TOOK THE FORM OF A REVIEW OF ALL UNCTAD
ACTIVITIES. THEY WERE SUBSTANTIALLY FLESHED OUT, HOWEVER,
AND INCLUDED THE FOLLOWING HIGHLIGHTS.

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PAGE 02 USUN N 04271 021859Z

A) COMMODITIES. COREA NOTED THAT AWARENESS OF THE
IMPORTANCE OF "STABILIZING AND IMPROVING COMMODITY MARKETS"
WAS NOW SHARED BY DEVELOPED COUNTRIES, SOME OF WHICH SAW
ITS VALUE IN DOMESTIC AS WELL AS NORTH-SOUTH TERMS. THE
CALLED THIS AN IMPORTANT CHANGE. HE NOTED THAT THE SUGAR
AGREEMENT WAS A GOOD AUGURY FOR FURTHER PROGRESS ON SPECIFIC
COMMODITIES. THERE WAS NO MENTION OF INDEXATION OR CHANGING

TERMS OF TRADE.

B) COMMON FUND (CF) COREA WAS FAR MORE POSITIVE ON IMPORTANCE OF CIEC AGREEMENT ON CF THAN MOST G-77 SPEAKERS IN GENERAL DEBATE. HE DESCRIBED THE GAP REMAINING AS ONE BETWEEN A "PASSIVE" APPROACH--TO A FUND ESTABLISHED AFTER CONCLUSION OF INDIVIDUAL AGREEMENTS AND AN "ACTIVE" APPROACH, OF CREATING THE FUND, WITH ITS OWN RESOURCES, PARI PASSU WITH AGREEMENTS, IN HOPE IT WOULD ACT AS A CATALYST. HE DID NOT MENTION TARGETS, SECOND WINDOW ACTIVITIES, ETC. HE NOTED THAT THERE WAS "COMMON GROUND" AND URGED "FLEXIBILITY" OF ALL PARTICIPANTS. HE NOTED THAT SUCCESS IN NOVEMBER WOULD GIVE MOMENTUM TO ENTIRE NORTH-SOUTH DIALOGUE.

C) CODE OF CONDUCT FOR THE TRANSFER OF TECHNOLOGY. LESS FELICITOUSLY, FROM US TO VIEW, COREA ALSO EXPRESSED "BROAD SATISFACTION WITH RESULTS THUS FAR" ON CODE, AND HOPED THAT DRAFTING GROUP COULD PROVIDE BASIS FOR HOLDING TO TIMETABLE.

D) DEBT. COREA DISCUSSED DEBT ONLY IN CONTEXT OF CALENDAR, SPECIFICALLY, TDB MINISTERIAL. HE NOTED LACK OF AGREEMENT AT CIEC, AND SUGGESTED TDB WOULD PROVIDE "A FRESH OPPORTUNITY FOR PROGRESS." HE SERVED TO CAREFULLY AVOID ANY DESCRIPTION OF WHAT THE PROBLEM WAS. LIMITED OFFICIAL USE

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PAGE 03 USUN N 04271 021859Z

E) OTHER. COREA ALSO NOTED PROGRESS IN WORK ON RESTRICTIVE BUSINESS PRACTICES AND OTHER ASPECTS OF TRANSFER OF TECHNOLOGY. HE WARNED AGAINST PROTECTIONISM, AND CONTINUED WITH A CATALOGUE OF OTHER ACTIVITIES. HE NOTED THAT UNCTAD'S USEFULNESS WOULD GROW "AS ISSUES MOVE FROM THE GENERAL TO THE SPECIFIC" AND REFERRED TO FIRST EFFORTS AT REORGANIZING THE ORGANIZATION. IN THIS CONTEXT, HE HAD NOTED EARLIER THAT MEETINGS IN UNCTAD HAD EXPANDED FROM 44 WEEKS IN 1976 TO 96 WEEKS IN 1977, WITH OVER 100 EXPECTED FOR 1978.

2. IN MISSION'S VIEW, NATURE OF COREA'S REMARKS REQUIRES SOME POSITIVE RESPONSE, SHOULD WE BE REQUIRED TO ADDRESS QUESTION OF DATE FOR NEGOTIATING CONFERENCE ON CODE OF CONDUCT FOR THE TRANSFER OF TECHNOLOGY IN THE SECOND COMMITTEE (REFTEL). (SHOULD REMARK ON CODE NOT BE NECESSARY, WE COULD EITHER WITHDRAW FROM SPEAKERS LIST, OR CONFINE OUR REMARKS TO ONE SENTENCE OF THANKS PLUS A REFERENCE TO UNDER SECRETARY COOPER'S GENERAL DEBATE STATEMENT). MISSION SUGGESTS STATEMENT SHOULD INCLUDE THE FOLLOWING:

A) THANKS TO SYG COREA FOR HIS COMPREHENSIVE AND THOUGHTFUL STATEMENT.

B) NOTING HOW FIGURES GIVEN (PARA 1E ABOVE), AND SUBJECTS MENTIONED, ATTEST TO INCREASED IMPORTANCE ALL COUNTRIES GIVE TO UNCTAD AS A FORUM FOR NEGOTIATING IN ITS AREAS OF COMPETENCE AND TO THE IMPORTANT ROLE THE UNCTAD SECRETARIAT IS PLAYING IN STIMULATING MANY ASPECTS OF COOPERATION AMONG DEVELOPING COUNTRIES.

C) AGREEMENT WITH COREA'S REMARKS ON THE IMPORTANCE OF STABILIZING AND IMPROVING COMMODITY MARKETS, WHICH DOES INDEED HELP PEOPLE OF DEVELOPED COUNTRIES AS WELL; SATISFACTION WITH SUGAR AGREEMENT AND SHARING COREA'S HOPE IT AUGURES WELL FOR OTHER AGREEMENTS, FOR WHICH WE PLEDGE OUR BEST EFFORTS.

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PAGE 04 USUN N 04271 021859Z

D) NOTING IMPORTANCE OF CIEC AGREEMENT ON COMMON FUND, AND RENEWING OUR PLEDGE TO TRY TO BRIDGE GAP NOVEMBER MEETING. WE WILL BE "FLEXIBLE" AND URGE THE SAME OF OTHERS.

E) CODE OF CONDUCT. AS PER REFTEL.

F) DEBT. WE TOO WOULD HOPE THAT TDB WOULD PROVIDE A "FRESH OPPORTUNITY" TO DISCUSS THE NATURE OF COUNTRIES' DEBT PROBLEMS.

G) UNCTAD CALENDAR. WE LOOK FORWARD TO PARTICIPATION IN TDB MINISTERIAL AND ITS PREPARATIONS, AND TO UNCTAD V IN MANILA.

H) UNCTAD REORGANIZATION. WE APPRECIATE SYG COREA'S FIRST CONTACTS WITH GROUP IN GENEVA, AND PLEDGE OUR COOPERATION IN FINDING WAYS TO INCREASE UNCTAD'S CAPACITY TO USE ITS RESOURCES FULLY TO MEET THE MANY RESPONSIBILITIES WHICH ITS MANDATE HAS PLACED UPON THE ORGANIZATION.

3. WE ARE INSCRIBED TO SPEAK THURSDAY AFTERNOON. THERE ARE 70 SPEAKERS ON THE LIST.

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Message Attributes

Automatic Decaptioning: X
Capture Date: 01-Jan-1994 12:00:00 am
Channel Indicators: n/a
Current Classification: UNCLASSIFIED
Concepts: TECHNICAL ASSISTANCE, COMMITTEE MEETINGS
Control Number: n/a
Copy: SINGLE
Sent Date: 02-Nov-1977 12:00:00 am
Decaption Date: 01-Jan-1960 12:00:00 am
Decaption Note:
Disposition Action: RELEASED
Disposition Approved on Date:
Disposition Case Number: n/a
Disposition Comment: 25 YEAR REVIEW
Disposition Date: 22 May 2009
Disposition Event:
Disposition History: n/a
Disposition Reason:
Disposition Remarks:
Document Number: 1977USUNN04271
Document Source: CORE
Document Unique ID: 00
Drafter: n/a
Enclosure: n/a
Executive Order: N/A
Errors: N/A
Expiration:
Film Number: D770403-1207
Format: TEL
From: USUN NEW YORK
Handling Restrictions: n/a
Image Path:
ISecure: 1
Legacy Key: link1977/newtext/t197711102/aaaadkdu.tel
Line Count: 156
Litigation Code IDs:
Litigation Codes:
Litigation History:
Locator: TEXT ON-LINE, ON MICROFILM
Message ID: 1fe8270e-c288-dd11-92da-001cc4696bcc
Office: ACTION EB
Original Classification: LIMITED OFFICIAL USE
Original Handling Restrictions: n/a
Original Previous Classification: n/a
Original Previous Handling Restrictions: n/a
Page Count: 3
Previous Channel Indicators: n/a
Previous Classification: LIMITED OFFICIAL USE
Previous Handling Restrictions: n/a
Reference: 77 STATE 257727
Retention: 0
Review Action: RELEASED, APPROVED
Review Content Flags:
Review Date: 24-Feb-2005 12:00:00 am
Review Event:
Review Exemptions: n/a
Review Media Identifier:
Review Release Date: n/a
Review Release Event: n/a
Review Transfer Date:
Review Withdrawn Fields: n/a
SAS ID: 395411
Secure: OPEN
Status: NATIVE
Subject: 32ND GA: SECOND COMMITTEE: UNCTAD SYG COREA BEGINS DEBATE ON ITEM 58 ON UPBEAT TONE
TAGS: EINV, TECH, UNGA, UNCTAD, OECD, UN
To: STATE
Type: TE
vdkgvwkey: odb://SAS/SAS.dbo.SAS_Docs/1fe8270e-c288-dd11-92da-001cc4696bcc
Review Markings:
Margaret P. Grafeld
Declassified/Released
US Department of State
EO Systematic Review
22 May 2009
Markings: Margaret P. Grafeld Declassified/Released US Department of State EO Systematic Review 22 May 2009